

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-14 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 5 and 11-14 are amended.

No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 3-14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0072018 to Sasaki et al. (hereinafter "Sasaki"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, an input point element determination unit that generates an inverse mapping function from the output space onto the input space based on the plurality of limited pairs and determines at least one element of the input point satisfying the constraint condition, when an output point is given, using the inverse mapping function. This feature is shown in Figs. 3a and 3b and described in the specification at page 19, lines 6-17, for example.

As shown in Figs. 3a and 3b, the CMYK color space is inversely mapped in the L\*a\*b\* color space. Using the inversed coordinate of L, a, b, (i.e.,  $^TL_i$ ,  $^Ta_i$ ,  $^Tb_i$ ), the given values of L\*a\*b\* are determined as ( $L_{given}$ ,  $a_{given}$ ,  $b_{given}$ ). The predicted value of K is determined based on the function of the inverse mapping using the equation (2) as shown at page 19, line 17. Therefore, it is not necessary to search for a value of K by repeating exploratory calculation, but the value of K is calculated using the prediction model.

Sasaki, on the other hand, determines the value of K from the given L\*a\*b\* and predicts the value of CMY from the value of K. At this time, the values of CMY are predicted by searching the value K such that the sum of the values of CMY and the value of K meet the total amount control (e.g.,  $C + M + Y + K = 300\%$ ) as discussed in the specification at page 3, line 25 - page 4, line 11 and Sasaki does not specifically teach or suggest generating an inverse mapping function from the output space to on the input space based on the plurality of limited pairs and the determining of one element of the input point

satisfying the constrained condition, when an output point is given, using the inverse mapping function, as recited in claim 1.

Accordingly, claim 1 is patentable over Sasaki.

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable over Sasaki also for the reasons discussed in Applicant's April 29, 2008 Request for Reconsideration, which have not been addressed by the Patent Office.

Independent claims 5 and 11-14 recite features similar to claim 1. Accordingly, claims 5 and 11-14 are patentable over Sasaki.

Dependent claims 3, 4 and 6-10 are allowable at least for their dependence on claims 1 and 5, respectively. Accordingly, withdraw of the rejection is respectfully requested.

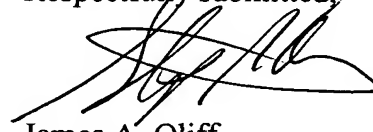
The Office Action rejects claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Sasaki in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,919,972 to Kumada et al. (hereinafter "Kumada"). This rejection is respectfully requested.

Kumada does not overcome the deficiency of Sasaki with respect to claim 1. Accordingly, claim 2 is allowable at least for its dependence on claim 1, as well as for the additional features it recites. Accordingly, withdraw of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-14 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:  
Request for Continued Examination

Date: September 26, 2008

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